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## News Release

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### **Durham Police Department Earns CALEA Gold Standard Accreditation**

The Durham Police Department has earned the prestigious Gold Standard Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). This achievement was announced Saturday at the CALEA Fall 2013 convention in Winston-Salem. The Durham Police Department is the only D-sized agency (a law enforcement agency with 300+ personnel) in North Carolina to be awarded CALEA after undergoing the Gold Standard Assessment.

The Police Department, which has been a CALEA accredited agency since 1991, also received the CALEA Meritorious Award for maintaining continuous accreditation for more than 15 years.

CALEA assessors spent three days at the Police Department in June 2013 to hold an onsite assessment. CALEA assessors reviewed the department's compliance with state-of-the-art standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations, and support services. CALEA assessors also interviewed numerous department employees and held an open public hearing.

"I think that attaining the CALEA Gold Standard Accreditation really shows the professionalism of the Durham Police Department," said Police Chief Jose L. Lopez Sr.

"We have a commitment not just to the law enforcement field but also to the professional manner in which we serve our community," he said.

#### **Durham Police Department Presentations at CALEA Conference –**

During the CALEA conference, Durham Police Department employees gave presentations about two of the department's major programs – the Police Training Officer (PTO)/Neighborhood Portfolio Program and the Residential Awareness Program (RAP) burglary prevention initiative.

Sgt. Nicholas Schneider of the Training Unit discussed the department's PTO/Neighborhood Portfolio program. This program focuses on a problem based learning process and community policing. Recruits must use their problem based learning skills to focus on a real world problem in the districts they patrol. They have 12 weeks to identify a problem, come up with a solution and then put the solution into place.

Recruit officers have developed several innovative and useful ideas for their Neighborhood Portfolio Exercises and the department has adopted several of the initiatives. Some of the most notable projects

included a pedestrian safety crosswalk operation, an after school mentoring program in a public housing community, a neighborhood cleanup, placing highly visible address numbers in an apartment complex so emergency personnel could more easily find specific apartments and an officer who has become a soccer coach at a local elementary school and plans to start an afterschool program at the school.

Mary Ann Roberts, supervisor of the Crime Analysis Unit, and Lt. Felisa Francis, Assistant District 1 Commander, gave a presentation about Intelligence Led Policing that also featured the department's Residential Awareness Program.

Intelligence Led Policing is an operational strategy to reduce crime through the combined use of crime analysis and criminal intelligence in order to determine crime reduction tactics that concentrate on the enforcement and prevention of criminal offender activity.

The Residential Awareness Program (RAP) is an initiative to combat burglaries, which has been empirically proven to reduce burglaries in area hot spots through the use of prevention and awareness strategies. The Police Department implemented the Residential Awareness Program (RAP) in the fall of 2011 following increases in reported burglaries.

Each week the Crime Analysis Unit provides information about recent burglaries and possible RAP target areas. Community resource officers go door to door in the target areas, pass out burglary crime prevention information and encourage residents to report suspicious activity. Officers also conduct high-visibility patrols in the targeted areas. This program ensures that district commanders have accurate, up-to-date information about burglary trends and also strengthens the community-DPD partnership.

Earlier this year, the Crime Analysis Unit analyzed the RAP results and determined that burglaries were down by 79 percent and all incidents were down by 58 percent in the RAP areas. RAP has helped investigators identify several possible burglary suspects.

Roberts also discussed several other intelligence led policing initiatives and arrests including the 6-year Bull's Eye initiative and arrests involving bank robberies, thefts of bank bags, robberies of businesses and several burglary series.

### **More Information on CALEA Gold Standard Accreditation (GSA)**

According to CALEA, "this voluntary assessment format focuses primarily on processes and outcomes associated with standards specific to agency policies. In short, it works to measure the impact of accreditation as opposed to simply confirming compliance through a file-by-file review.

In addition to strong organizational health and an absence of issues that detract from the professionalism of the agency, the following general criteria must be met before an agency may be considered to participate in the GSA process:

- Must have two previous accreditation awards at the level of accreditation currently being sought.
- Must not have had compliance issues in most recent assessment.
- Must not have had process management issues in most recent assessment.

- Must not currently be under a consent decree or memorandum of understanding.
- Must not be exercising agency requested assessment extension option for current process.
- Must have submitted all three Agency Status Reports as required and on time.”

For additional information, please go here <http://www.calea.org/content/calea-gold-standard-assessment>